

HOUSE RESOLUTION 298

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., for meritorious service to the City of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those sterling individuals who, through their hard work, expertise, and dedication, have pieced together the enduring fabrics that comprise the grand tapestry of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., is one such outstanding citizen who has rendered public and religious service with extraordinary dedication and unprecedented integrity, giving unselfishly of himself, his time, and his talents for the greater good of his family and friends, his faith, and the greater Memphis community; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Patterson is an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who has worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens and his congregants in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a diligent student with a thirst for knowledge, J.O. Patterson earned Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Fisk University, a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from DePaul University School of Law, a Master of Arts degree in Religion from Memphis Theological Seminary, and was admitted to practice law in the states of Illinois and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, for twenty-one years, he served the State of Tennessee and the City of Memphis with dignity, honor, and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Patterson served with acumen and alacrity as a State Senator for six years, a State Representative for two years, and a member of the Memphis City Council for twenty years, including a term of service as the Chairman; he also ably represented Tennessee as a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions of 1972, 1976, and 1980 and was a Tennessee Constitutional Convention delegate; and

WHEREAS, a pioneering civic leader, J.O. Patterson has the great distinction of being the first African-American to serve as interim Mayor of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Patterson decided to forgo further pursuits in politics to fully commit to his higher calling in the Church of God in Christ; and

WHEREAS, Bishop J.O. Patterson is the Senior Pastor at the Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ, the church his esteemed grandfather, the late Chrihop Charles Harrison Mason, founded; he gives the Temple Church the unique distinction of being the only church in the brotherhood pastored by a direct descendant of the founder, a distinction his father, the late Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., held when he held the position; and

WHEREAS, during his laudable career, Bishop Patterson has given freely of himself to the Church of God in Christ as an Elder, District Superintendent, Auxiliary Bishop, Legal Counsel, and as a member of the Saints Center Board of Directors, the C.H. Mason Foundation Board of Directors, and Advisor to the Women's International Convention; and

WHEREAS, he continued to diligently carry out the Lord's work upon his consecration to the Bishopric in 1988, and was appointed Prelate of Headquarters Jurisdiction and was elected Vice-Chairman of the General Assembly in 1998 before his elevation to Chairman in 2000; and

WHEREAS, due to the superior quality of his Christian service and the depth and sincerity of his faith, Bishop Patterson has earned the respect of his flock and church leaders alike; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Patterson continues to strive to develop ministries that will meet the needs of the whole man, as well as the community at large; and

WHEREAS, answering the call of the Lord as written in Matthew 25: 35-40, "When I was hungry, you fed me. When I was thirsty, you gave me drink. When I needed shelter you took me in", Bishop Patterson established Pentecostal Temple's Food Pantry and Clothes Closet to feed and clothe the hungry of Memphis and started the J.O. Patterson Radio and Television Ministries to meet the spiritual needs of the sick and shut-in; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Patterson helped develop this state's most precious natural resource, our children, by sponsoring a Boy Scout program at his church that has received awards for excellence from the regional Boy Scout Council, in addition to initiating a scholarship

program to assist motivated and disciplined youth with financial support for post high school education; and

WHEREAS, reaching out to the spiritual needs of his male congregants, J.O. Patterson formed a men's fellowship group, Brothers for Christ, and a men's choral group; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Patterson endeared himself to his congregation as a humble servant of God with his open heart, indomitable spirit, and stalwart ethics; and

WHEREAS, his many awards and accomplishments aside, J.O. Patterson is most grateful for the love and support he receives from his wife, Rose, and their four children, Dr. James O. Patterson III, Aaron Lamont, Jennifer Rose, and Elder Charles Harrison Mason Patterson; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Patterson's courage, boundless energy, and religious devotion is to be greatly admired, and it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to applaud this exceptional Christian servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., of the Church of God in Christ for his meritorious service in Memphis and offer our thanks for his stalwart commitment to performing God's work with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.